

THE BEGINNING OF TOMORROW!

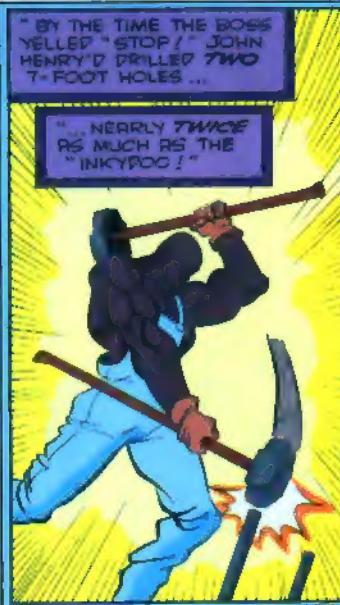
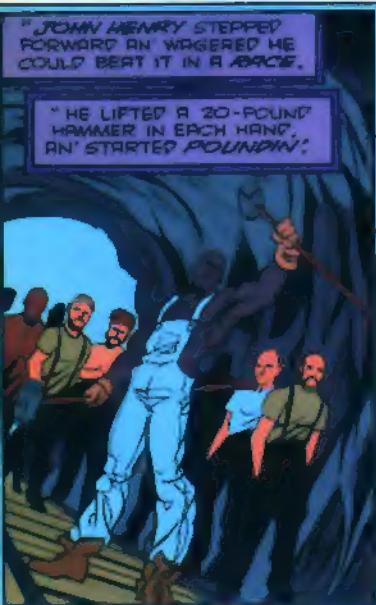


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STEEL

L. SIMONSON
BATISTA
FABER





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IN THE BEGINNING!

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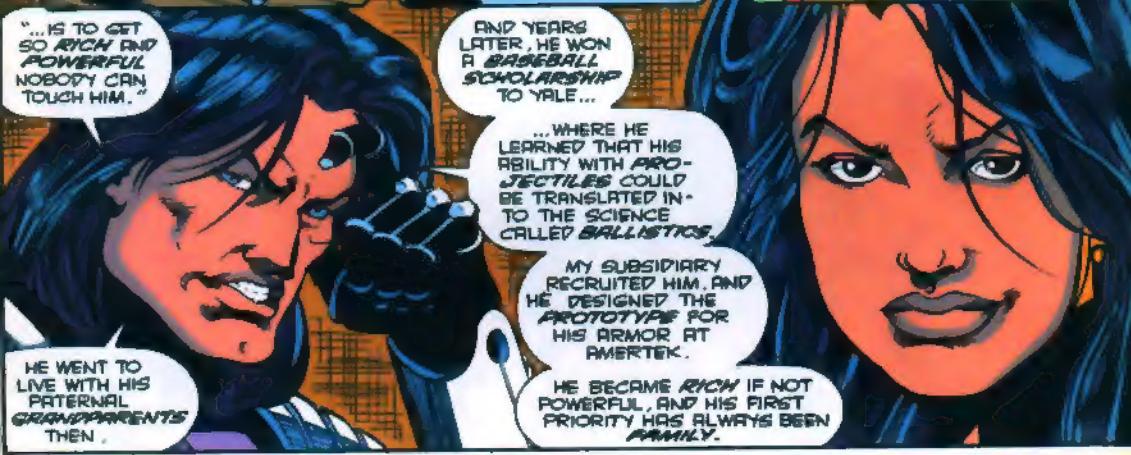




STEEL'S
ABILITIES
COULD BE
SUCH
PROFITABLE
ABILITIES...

SO WHY IS HE
SO DETERMINED
TO USE THEM
FOR THE PUBLIC
GOOD?

IT IS ODD,
SHELLSHOCK,
CONSIDERING HIS
ORIGINS.
IT'S ALL IN HIS
AMERTEK
DOSSIER...



"I CAN'T ALLOW STEEL'S CONTINUED INTERFERENCE IN MY VENTURES."

"TAKE HIM, SHELLSHOCK... BUT IF POSSIBLE, DO IT AWAY FROM HIS FAMILY."

MMM MMMM!
I CAN SMELL
THAT BARBECUE
ALL THE WAY UP
HERE!

"I WON'T INVOLVE THEM IN THIS CONFLICT UNLESS I'M FORCED TO..."

"...SINCE I MYSELF HAVE EXPERIENCED THE FRAGILITY OF FAMILY."

"AN' WITH ANY LUCK, JOHN HENRY'LL COME BACK WITH 'EM."

THE KIDS'LL BE
BACK SOON,
BUTTER...

"BE GOOD FOR HIM TO
KICK BACK A TAD..."

"...AN' EAT SOME
RIBS IN HIS OWN
BACK YARD."

HERE'S
WASHINGTON
GENERAL...

TYKE'S
PHYSICAL
THERAPY'S
PROBABLY
ABOUT OVER.

THINK I'LL
GET THIS
ARMOR
OFF...

...AND
CHECK ON
TYKE'S
PROGRESS
IN PERSON.

MAYBE
SAY HELLO
TO DR.
QUICK...



...AS
JOHN
MEN--

WHO--?

SHE WASN'T THERE
A SECOND AGO,
WHERE'D SHE COME
FROM?

THE NAME'S
SHELLSHOCK--
FOR OBVIOUS
REASONS!

WHILE THE
OTHERS
DISTRACT
HIM--

KPOW!

HEY,
STEEL!
BEHIND
YOU!

HARDSELL'S
THE NAME, AND
POWER'S MY
GAME!

--I'LL TAKE
STEEL OUT AT
LASER-LIGHT
SPEED!

POW!

BOOM!

SPLOOSH!

OW!
MAINLINE!
YOU
IDIOT!

STEEL KNOCKED
HARDSELL INTO MY
PATH! AT LEAST HE'S
INVULNERABLE--

--OR I'D HAVE BURNED A HOLE IN HIS HIDE.

GOT TO REVERT TO PHYSICAL FORM IF I WANT TO STOP 'FORE I HIT THE MOON!

HARDSELL'S EVEN TOUGHER THAN MY ARMOR.

THOOM!
THOOM!

MAYBE SOME RIVETS IN HIS FACE WILL KNOCK HIM BACK!

IT WORKED! I'M FREE!

MISS, BLAST IT!

WHAT NOW?

NOW WE GO AFTER HIM!

IF Y-Y-YOU
WANT TO HAVE
A 'DISCUSSION'
WITH THIS STEEL,
MISS BUNNY...

...YOU'RE
OBVIOUSLY
GOING TO HAVE
TO W-W-WAIT
IN LINE.

YOU'RE RIGHT,
JITTER, BUT
HE'LL SURVIVE
THIS CONFLICT,
TOO.

NO MATTER
WHAT HAPPENS,
JOHN HENRY
IRONS ALWAYS
LANDS ON HIS
FEET.

EVERYTHING WAS
FINE UNTIL HE WAS
ORDERED TO QURAC
BY AMERTEK'S
COLONEL WISDOM...

...TO VIEW THE
EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE WEAPONS
AGAINST KURDISH
REBELS...



I, OF COURSE, RECOVERED THE DESIGN, AND THE REST IS HISTORY.

TH-TH-THE WHITE RABBIT MANUFACTURED THE DESIGNS... CALLING THEM TOAST-MASTERS...

...AND SOLD THEM ON THE STREET.

I SOLD THEM IN GURAC.

WHICH LED TO A CONFRONTATION WITH STEEL AND MY APPARENT DEATH.

AND ALTHOUGH I'D LOVE TO FACE HIM AGAIN, IT'S BEST THAT HE STILL BELIEVE ME DEAD.

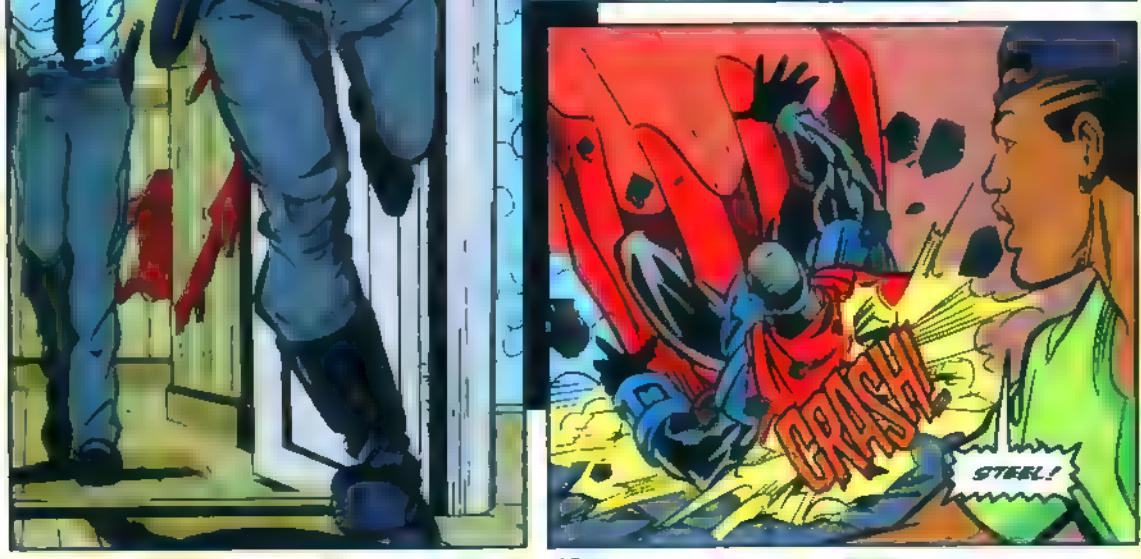
AT LEAST FOR NOW, WE CAN PROCEED WITH OUR BUSINESS...

...IN PEACE.

UNH!

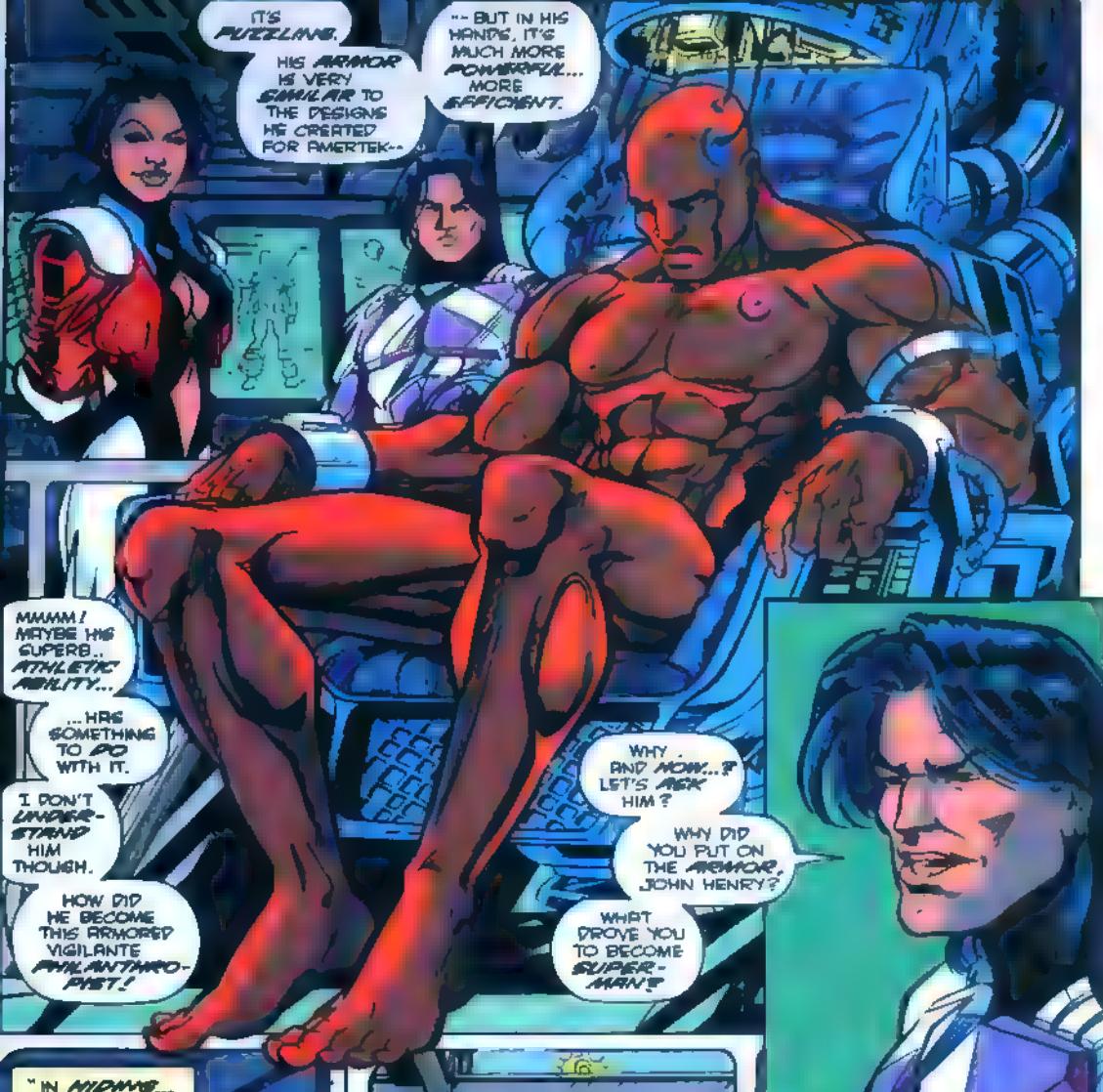
SOME CHICK IS TAKING STEEL APART! FRANKIE--

POW!









"HOOK HOLDING THE CABLE CAME LOOSE I STARTED TO FALL.

"THINGS I'D DONE... THINGS I WAS SORRY FOR FLASHED THROUGH MY MIND

"FIGURED I'D NEVER GET THE CHANCE TO PUT THINGS RIGHT.

"THEN SUPERMAN SAVED ME

I OWE YOU MY LIFE.

THEN MAKE IT COUNT FOR SOMETHING

"AND JUST LIKE THAT I AWOKE. I'D USE THE LIFE HE GAVE ME BACK TO DO SOME GOOD.

SUPERMAN SAVED HIM SO WHATEVER

IF EVERYBODY SUPERMAN SAVED TURNED INTO A SUPER-HERO...

IT'S LUCKY FOR US, THAT HEN'T CASUALLY THE WAY IT WORKS OUT.

THEN... WHY DID IT WORK THAT WAY FOR HIM?

LOOK AT THE SCREEN. WE'VE SEEN ONLY PART OF THE ANSWER

...THERE'D BE NO CRIME ANYWHERE.

"THEN DOOMSDAY SMASHED HIS WAY INTO METROPOLIS."

"WHEN THE BATTLE BETWEEN HIM AND SUPERMAN MOVED NEARBY..."

"THE FOREMAN CLEARED THE BUILDING."

"I SNATCHED UP A Sledgehammer AND RUSHED DOWN TOWARD THE FIGHT."

"SUPERMAN HAD SAVED ME NOW I WAS GONNA HELP HIM."

"BUT AN EXPLOSION COLLAPSED THE BUILDING."

"AND I WAS BURIED, WHEN I FINALLY CLAWED MY WAY OUT I LEARNED THE TRUTH..."

"--DOOMSDAY'D DIED IN THE BATTLE... BUT SO HAD SUPERMAN."

"STILL OWED HIM MY LIFE, SO I DECIDED I'D TRY TO TAKE HIS PLACE."

"DO WHAT HE WOULD HAVE WANTED, SO I REFORGED THE ARMOR..."

THAT'S IT?

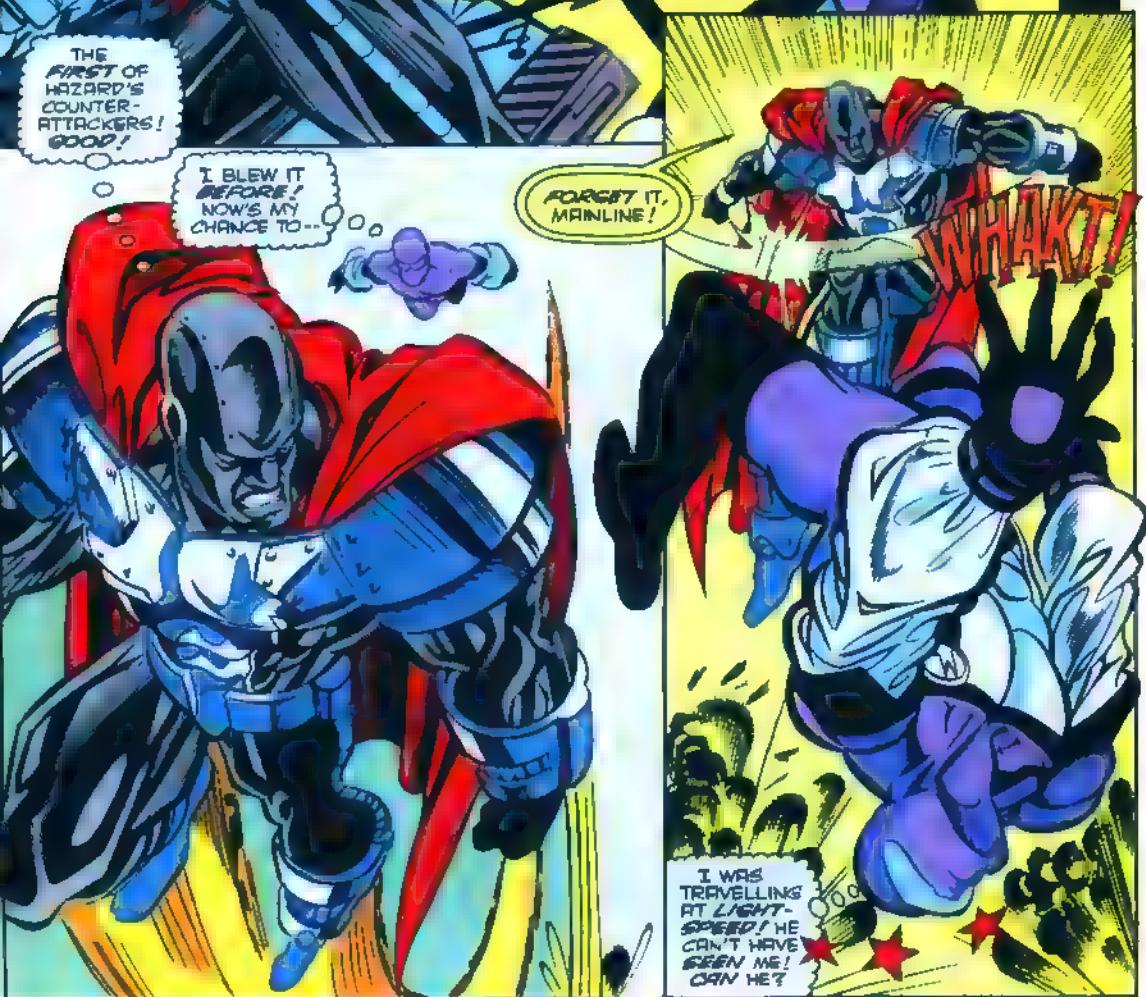
IT'S ENOUGH STEEL IS STILL PROTECTIVE OF HIS FAMILY.

BUT, BECAUSE OF HIS ENCOUNTER WITH SUPERMAN...

...THAT FAMILY NOW ENCOMPASSES ALL OF HUMANITY.

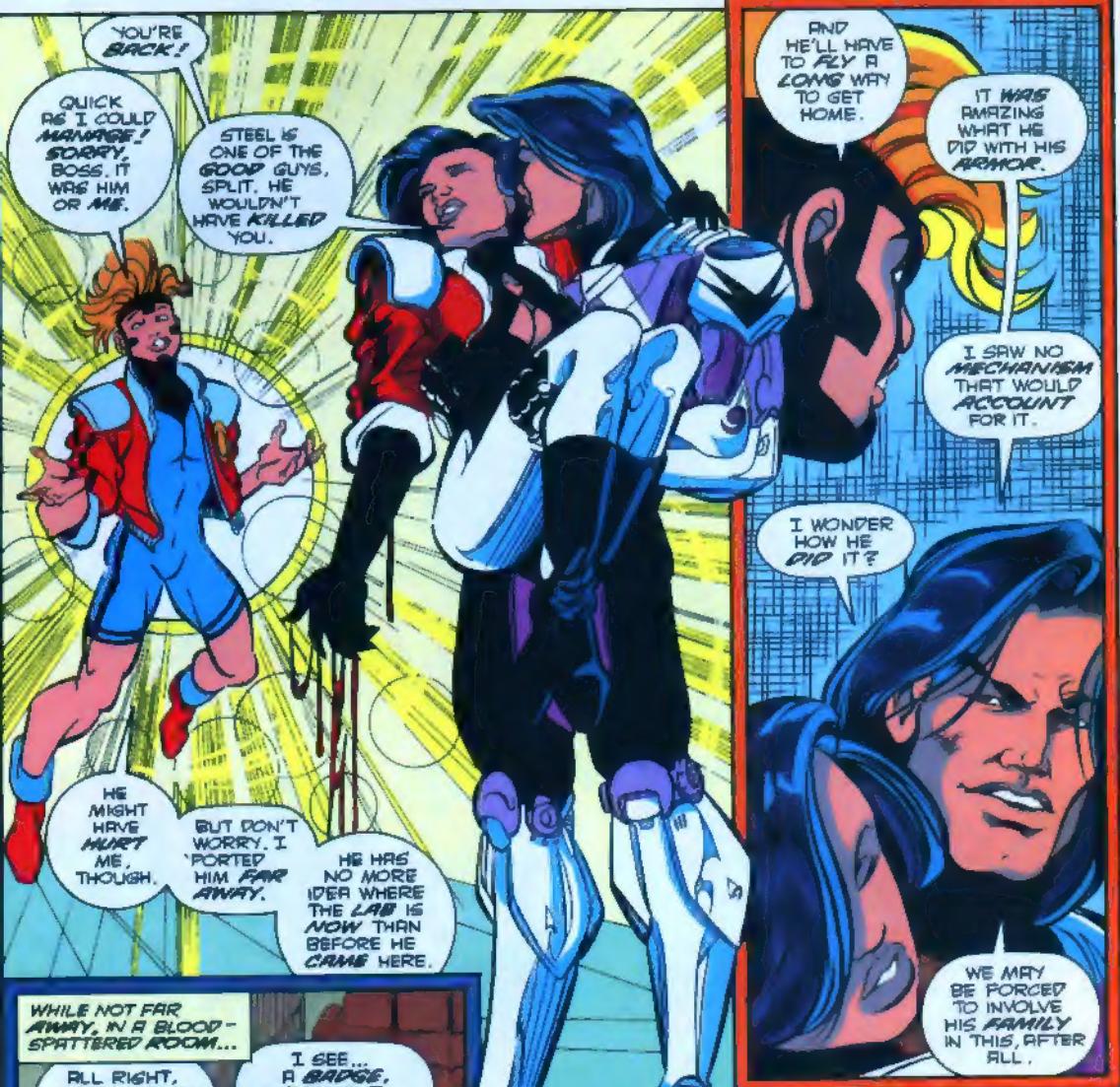
REVERSE THE CURRENT, SHELLSHOCK. IT'S TIME TO AWAKE STEEL UP.











"...ON THE
ETHERIAL
PLANET!"

WHERE
THE HELL AM
I? COLORADO?
ARIZONA?

SEEMS
LIKE THE
FIRST ROUND
ENDED IN A
TIE!

BUT THE
FIGHT'S
NOT OVER
YET!

MARSELL
MENTIONED
HAZARD HAS
A PRIVATE SPY
SATELLITE.

IF I
CAN
LOCATE
IT...

...IT MAY
LEAD ME TO
HAZARD'S HEAD-
QUARTERS.

I'M ALIVE
BECAUSE MY
ARMOR
INEXPICABLY
SURROUNDED
ME.

IT'S NEVER
DONE THAT
BEFORE! BUT
THEN... I NEVER
NEEDED IT
TO.

HOW
DID IT
HAPPEN? AND
WHY?

I GUESS
IT WILL GIVE
ME SOMETHING
TO THINK
ABOUT...

...ON MY
LONG
FLIGHT
HOME!

NEXT MONTH:
MURDER IN D.C.!